

DEFINITIONS:

1. "ALIEN" — any non-citizen
2. "IMMIGRANT" — General class of all persons entering the United States for residence
3. Immigrants by normal preference categories
4. Immigrants as refugees
5. Special groups such as diplomats, students, etc.

13. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION RELATED TO THE PRONOUNCEMENT ON JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION

Dr. Evans continued with the report of the Committee and invited the Rev. Norman Pavey (MINN) of the Committee to present the Proposal for Action. Mr. Pavey indicated the changes in the Proposal for Action and moved its adoption.

It was

81-GS-40 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts as revised the Proposal for Action related to the Pronouncement on Justice in Immigration.

JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION

A proposal for designating responsibility and structure of the Instrumentalities, Conferences, and congregations of the United Church of Christ to address moral, social, economic, and political issues related to migrants, immigrants, and refugees.

Background:

The JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION Pronouncement adopted by the Thirteenth General Synod presents a Christian perspective for United States and world policy regarding migrants, immigrants, and refugees. It continues the long heritage of the United Church of Christ concern for human rights, justice for the poor, and support of the world's uprooted peoples.

Implementation:

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ has adopted the Pronouncement, JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION, and

WHEREAS, this Pronouncement has raised a number of important concerns, issues, and needs to be addressed by the church,

THEREFORE, the Thirteenth General Synod calls upon:

- the Office for Church In Society, in collaboration with other national Instrumentalities, to convene a special advisory committee with representation from Pacific and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), Council for Hispanic Ministries, Ministers for Racial and Social Justice, United Black Christians, concerned national instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, and other persons with expertise in the area of immigration. This committee will advise the staff working group, local churches, conferences and instrumentalities with respect to immigration issues;
- the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Commission on Racial Justice, and the Office for Church In Society to constitute a staff working group convened to assist Conferences,

congregations, and other UCC groups to interpret issues and develop programs to implement the Pronouncement;

- the Office for Church In Society to convene and facilitate the staff working group and the advisory committee.

Directional Statement and Goals:

(In each of the following statements ecumenical cooperation is assumed and should be an integral part of all efforts.)

The Thirteenth General Synod calls upon and invites:

- the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church In Society, local congregations, and Conferences to focus educational efforts on the global perspectives of political, social and economic concerns related to immigration;
- the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Commission for Racial Justice, the Office for Church In Society, local congregations, and Conferences to focus educational efforts on governmental and agency procedures, limitations on immigration, and human and civil rights related to government and private sector practices related to immigration. In addition, it is recommended that consultation should be encouraged with appropriate government bodies, including the immigration and naturalization service;
- the Office for Church In Society, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, congregations, and Conferences to develop and execute strategies and programs to advocate public policy development and implementation in Congress, governmental agencies, and the United Nations consistent with the judgments and values inherent in the Christian Gospel and interpreted in General Synod policies;
- the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church In Society, the Commission for Racial Justice, local congregations, Conferences, and other structures of the church to assist, generate, and support organizing efforts among immigrant groups to focus on:
 - advocacy for public policy, social benefits, and economic development;
 - assisting, generating, and supporting community projects dealing with immigration;
 - supporting and/or providing social services;
 - offering advisory services to church, government, or other voluntary organizations.

The Thirteenth General Synod further recommends:

- the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church In Society, and other structures of the church along with Conferences and congregations support the following ministries and others:

- organizing and supporting new congregations among new immigrants as may be appropriate, such as the New Initiatives in Church Development;
- offering assistance in leadership development;
- offering social and educational services to undocumented persons as well as to refugees and immigrants;
- assisting voluntarily in refugee resettlement, and welcoming immigrants into the life and fellowship of congregations;
- fostering corporate social responsibility relative to pressures causing migration.

The Thirteenth General Synod recommends:

- to local congregations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities, but especially to the United Church Board for World Ministries, that attention be given to the global perspective of immigration and that cooperation with partner denominations on matters related to immigration be pursued.

Conclusions

Support for human rights and values as new immigrants come to these shores offers the United Church of Christ opportunities for ministry. In addition, creative international participation may furnish new models of ministry to address societal pressures forcing migration. The proposal provides a means of rising to the challenge and seizing the opportunity for faithfulness in mission to the immigrants, migrants, and refugees.

14. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SALVADORAN REFUGEES

Dr. Evans referred to Advance Materials V, page 5, and moved the adoption of the resolution In Support of Salvadoran Refugees.

It was

81-GS-41 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the resolution In Support of the Salvadoran Refugees.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SALVADORAN REFUGEES

Providing safe haven for people whose lives are endangered by strife in their home country surely demonstrates the most basic of our commitment as followers of Jesus Christ. As a witness of faith in our God, who calls us to help the widows and orphans and enjoins us not to oppress the aliens among us, we can do no less.

WHEREAS, current conditions in El Salvador have caused over 100,000 people to flee the country in fear for their lives and have displaced 500,000 people within El Salvador (according to information provided by Church World Service of the National Council of the Churches of Christ). 22,000 people have been killed there since January, 1980; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U.S. has been apprehending and deporting Salvadorans to El Salvador, regardless of reports that those returned are likely to be killed. Salvadoran

children are being returned unaccompanied by their parents or any adult, to El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, indefinite voluntary departure status has been granted in the past during crisis situations similar to current conditions in El Salvador; for example, in recent years nationals of Nicaragua, Uganda, and Lebanon have been granted this status when their lives were endangered had they been forced to return to their countries; and

WHEREAS, Salvadorans and others from Mexico and Central America are being held at detention camps such as El Centro and San Ysidro near the U.S.-Mexican border under conditions which no outside public delegation is being allowed to inspect. There are reports of abuses at these camps.

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Department of State of the United States of America to grant indefinite voluntary departure status with employment authorization to all Salvadorans in the United States, on the basis of conditions in El Salvador; and

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to halt all deportations of Salvadorans to El Salvador and to cease its policy of deporting children unaccompanied by adults; and

The Thirteenth General Synod requests the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ to implement this resolution by making appropriate communications to the Department of State and to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and by communicating the text of this resolution to the press.

15. STATEMENT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE SUNDAY, JUNE 28, OFFERING

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bracke, Chairperson of the Business Committee.

Mr. Bracke referred to an earlier question related to the designation of the Sunday, June 28, 1981, offering which was recommended to the General Synod by the Executive Council. In making the recommendation the Executive Council acted within the provisions of the Pattern of Giving document of the United Church of Christ which was adopted by the General Synod and includes a category of gifts called "Designated Basic Support." The Executive Council designated the Sunday offering as "Designated Basic Support" in consultation with the Stewardship Council and the United Church Board for World Ministries. The Executive Council recognizing that there is some confusion in the categories has requested that the Pattern of Giving be studied in the next biennium.

Mr. Bracke invited the Rev. George W. Otto, Executive Director, Stewardship Council, and the Rev. David M. Stowe, Executive Vice-President, United Church Board for World Ministries, to speak to the issue.

Mr. Otto said it is important to recognize the Pattern of Giving does not belong to the Stewardship Council but belongs to the United Church of Christ. The Sunday